

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner states that the inventions of Groups I, II, III and IV are all unrelated under M.P.E.P. § 806.04 and M.P.E.P. § 808.01, because, although some of the fluorinated compounds in all invention groups may involve the same chemical reaction(s) as well as carrying the same or similar repeating fluorinated units, they are actually quite different methods or processes of making.

However, it can be seen that compound (7-10) of Claim 18, which is not a method claim but is directed to a number of compounds, is closely related to compound (7-1) of the claims of Group III, used in the formation of the fluorosulfonyl group-containing polymer. Further, the claim of Group II, Claim 10, is drawn to a method of making compound (7-1), which makes Claim 10 of Group II closely related to the claims of Group III. Therefore, it is submitted that the claims of Groups II, III and IV are all closely related and appropriate for examination in the present application. It is requested that the claims of Groups II, III and IV be rejoined and examined in the present application.

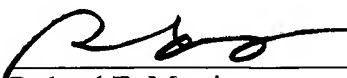
Accordingly, for the reasons presented above, it is submitted that the Patent and Trademark Office has failed to meet the burden necessary to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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